

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HARLAN
BIBLE DONATION TO CONGRESS

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good work and friendship of the American Judicial Alliance. AJA and its founder, Judge Darrell White, have been working tirelessly to introduce the tradition of the Harlan Bible by donating these Bibles to our nation's courtrooms and institutions, including to this chamber. Justice John Marshall Harlan set this precedent by donating his very own Bible to the Supreme Court back in 1906, and since then, every justice has signed this Bible after taking the oath of office.

Justice Harlan is probably best known for being the "Great Dissenter" and specifically for his role as the lone dissenter in *Plessy v. Ferguson*'s unjust 'separate but equal' precedent. His personal transformation made him an impassioned supporter for civil rights during his 34 years on the Court.

It was Justice Harlan who stated: "Our constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law."

By donating these Harlan Bibles, AJA is honoring the legacy of Justice Harlan's fight for justice, recognizing that our inalienable rights come directly from our Creator, and restoring faith in our Nation's courtrooms. May God continue to bless the American Judicial Alliance as it endeavors to share the Harlan Bible and its important message of justice, mercy, and faith to the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 9, 2021, I missed roll call votes No. 439 and 440 due to the effects of the ongoing public health emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on 439 and "nay" on 440.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DR. ANDREW HUGINE, JR. AS
PRESIDENT OF ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
UNIVERSITY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., the 11th President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M University), who is retiring on December 31, 2021, after 12 wonderful years of service to the University and the surrounding community. Dr. Hugine obtained his bachelor's

and master's degrees in mathematics from South Carolina State University. He went on to earn his doctorate in Higher Education and Institutional Research from Michigan State University.

Prior to his tenure at Alabama A&M University, Dr. Hugine served as the President of South Carolina State University and held numerous positions in education including Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Director of Special Services Program; Director of University Year for Action Program—a service-learning program; Research Fellow; Assistant and Director of Institutional Self-Study; Professor of Mathematics and high school mathematics teacher. Dr. Hugine has been recognized both nationally and internationally for his leadership in education and adept administrative skills.

Under the exceptional guidance of Dr. Hugine, Alabama A&M University has made many advancements. By making bold financial decisions, increasing academic programs, and fostering tenacious alumni and student connections, Dr. Hugine dedicated himself to ensuring that the university is more competitive in the 21st century.

Partnering with various organizations including, those of the National Pan-Hellenic Council along with the support of public and private entities, helped the university gain additional streams of external funding to increase financial opportunities for prospective students. As a result of Dr. Hugine's efforts, the university increased its total endowment by almost 50 million dollars, completing its first-ever capital campaign raising over 27 million dollars, and establishing the Normal Legacy Society, which has contributed over 5 million dollars to the university.

Along with financial improvements, academic programs have shown tremendously growth under Dr. Hugine's tenure. Nine new academic programs were formed, including Animal Bio-Health Technology, Communication Specialist, Construction Management, and many more to give the students versatility while pursuing the careers they desire. As a result of these academic developments, there have been record-breaking highs in Alabama A&M University's recent fall enrollment with 1,690 students enrolling into the freshman class.

Increasing pride in this historic institution remained a focal point of Dr. Hugine's presidency. With the vision of First Lady Abbiegail Hugine and the help of the Bulldog Pride Committee, several initiatives were implemented to beautify the campus, enhance customer service, promote character development, and increase the wearing of Alabama A&M University paraphernalia as a display of pride. Other incredible programs and scholarships were established such as the "Quad," a program focused on student activities, the First Lady's Endowed Scholarship Program, and the Normalite Walkway Pavers' Scholarship.

Under the direction of Dr. Hugine Alabama A&M University has strengthened its nurturing environment for students to thrive and become remarkable contributors to society. Although I know he will continue to serve his community through volunteering, I sincerely hope that his retirement is filled with the joy of becoming a new grandparent and spending time with family and friends.

On a personal note, I was privileged to get to know Dr. Hugine and to witness first-hand his remarkable leadership as President of Alabama A&M University. Dr. Hugine is a visionary leader, dynamic educator, effective administrator, solid steward of the University's finance, and true champion of the students, faculty, alumni, and trustees of Alabama A&M University. Under his twelve-year tenure as the 11th President of Alabama A&M University, Dr. Hugine made a lasting contribution to the education and administration of AAMU. Upon his retirement, his legacy will continue to live on in the numerous lives that he impacted and the outstanding contributions that AAMU students will make to this Nation. I wish him and his lovely wife Abbiegail, of over 40 years, much success in their future endeavors. They have truly been a blessing and left an indelible mark on the State of Alabama. For all he has done, we thank him for his exemplary service.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., and his contributions as President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

HONORING 175 YEARS OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing as they gather to celebrate 175 years of continuous faith and service.

Founded on December 17, 1847, First Presbyterian Church is the oldest, formally-constituted church in the city. At the time of its founding, Lansing's residents were unified against slavery and the city served as a secondary stop on the Underground Railroad. The First Presbyterian faith community were among these early advocates for abolition and when the Civil War broke out, strongly supported Michigan troops who joined to defend the Union. The women of First Presbyterian Church cooked, washed clothes, and wrote letters home for those who could not write. Meanwhile, from the church pulpit, Rev. Chester S. Armstrong, urged local farmers to do their part and increase their harvests to feed the Union Army.

After the war, the congregation continued to lead the way for social justice. They were the principal sponsor and supporter of the first African-American Sabbath School in Lansing, which later became the African Methodist Episcopal Church which was founded in 1879. At the turn of the century, when outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, and malaria ravaged the most vulnerable residents in Lansing, First Presbyterian was a key proponent of improving sanitary living conditions. In addition to partnering with the YMCA to support the city's youth, church members were invested in the common welfare of the needy, caring for neighbors who could not work or those whose wages weren't enough to feed their families.

As the city of Lansing grew, so did the First Presbyterian Church congregation. From its new home beside the state Capitol, pastors